

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 25 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:
 - a body;
 - a protective portion of the body configured to be penetration resistant; and
 - a less protective portion of the body adjacent to the protective portion;wherein the protective portion is of a different color than the less protective portion, and wherein the color of the protective portion is visible to a user of the guard before use of the guard.
2. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein a color of the protective portion is visually distinct from a color of the less protective portion.
3. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein an end of the body is shaped so that a portion of a pad of the digit remains uncovered by the body during use in order for the digit to retain the ability to register tactile sensations.
4. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion comprises poly-para-phenylene terephthalamide.
5. (previously presented): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion comprises polytetra-fluoroethylene.

6. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion comprises an elastomeric material.
7. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the less protective portion is adapted to provide at least four times the penetration resistance to a 27-gauge needle during use than a double layer of latex gloves, each glove having a thickness between about 0.05 millimeters and 0.2 millimeters.
8. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein a portion of the body is shaped to avoid covering a portion of a medial joint to allow the digit the ability to flex during use.
9. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the body covers a substantial portion of a medial joint of the digit, and wherein the protective section and the less protective section are flexible to allow the digit to flex during use.
10. (original): The guard of claim 1, further comprising a lip at an end of the body, the lip configured to provide an indicator of an insertion depth of the body on the digit.
11. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the color of the protective portion is visible through a covering worn over the body.
12. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion is substantially transparent.
13. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the less protective portion is substantially transparent.
14. (previously presented): The guard of claim 1, wherein the body comprises a dorsal portion.
15. (previously presented): The guard of claim 14, wherein the dorsal portion includes the protective portion.

16. (previously presented): The guard of claim 14, wherein the dorsal portion is configured to contact a dorsal portion of the digit during use.

17. (original): The guard of claim 1, further comprising a bead of material formed between the protective portion and the less protective portion.

18. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion has a longer length than a length of the less protective portion.

19. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion has an angular range between about $\pi/2$ radians and about $7\pi/4$ radians.

20. (original): The guard of claim 1, wherein the protective portion has an angular range of about $5\pi/4$ radians.

21. (currently amended): A guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:

a body having an opening in an end configured to allow a portion of a pad of the digit to remain uncovered by the guard during use, wherein the end comprises a lip configured to provide an indicator of an insertion depth of the body on the digit;

wherein the body comprises a protective portion having a puncture resistance to a 20-gauge needle of at least about 2 newtons; and

wherein a color of the protective portion contrasts with a color of skin of the digit.

22. (original): The guard of claim 21, further comprising a less protective portion, the less protective portion configured to hold the guard on the digit.

23. (original): The guard of claim 22, further comprising a bead of material between the protective portion and the less protective portion.

24. (original): The guard of claim 21, further comprising a less protective portion, the less protective portion having a color visually distinct from the color of the protective portion.

25. (cancelled)

26. (original): The guard of claim 21, wherein the color of the protective portion is visible through a covering worn over the body.

27. (currently amended): A method of producing a protective guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:

forming a protective portion that covers a portion of the digit; and

coloring the protective portion so that the protective portion contrasts with a color of the digit so that limits of protection afforded by the protective guard are visualized by a user before use of the protective guard.

28. (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising:

forming a less protective portion; and

bonding the protective portion and the less protective portion together to form a body positionable on the digit.

29. (original): The method of claim 28, further comprising forming an indentation in an end of the body that allows a portion of a pad of the digit to remain uncovered during use.

30. (original): The method of claim 28, further comprising forming an indentation in an end of the body that permits bending of a medial joint of the digit.

31. (original): The method of claim 27, further comprising forming a lip at an end of the protective section, the lip configured to provide an indication of insertion depth of the protective portion on the digit.

32. (currently amended): A method of protecting a digit from penetration during a surgical procedure, comprising:

covering a portion of the digit with a protective guard; and

using color of positioning a protective portion of the protective guard to guide positioning of the protective portion over part of a dorsal portion of the digit, wherein the protective portion comprises a color that is visibly distinct from a color of the digit.

33. (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the protective guard includes a less protective portion, the less protective portion comprising a color that is visibly distinct from the color of the protective portion.

34. (original): The method of claim 22, further comprising rotating the protective guard during use to change a position of the protective portion of the protective guard to a different portion of the digit.

35. (currently amended): A guard for a digit of a hand, comprising:

a body;

a protective portion of the body configured to be penetration resistant;

a less protective portion of the body adjacent to the protective portion; and

a bead of material formed between the protective portion and the less protective portion;

and

wherein a color difference between the protective portion and the less protective portion allows a user to visually confirm positioning of the protective portion of the guard relative to the digit.